

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously amended): A method for assaying activity of a virus comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a plurality of cells susceptible to caspase 3 induction with said virus, wherein said virus induces caspase 3 activity; and
- (b) measuring said caspase 3 activity as an indication of virus activity.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said caspase 3 activity is measured using a caspase 3 substrate linked to a fluorimetric or a colorimetric moiety.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said substrate is the peptide Asp-Glu-Val-Asp (SEQ ID NO: 1).

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said virus is either measles virus, mumps virus, or rubella virus.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said plurality of cells is either Vero cells or RK-13 cells.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein prior to said step (a) said virus was lyophilized.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The method of claim 3, wherein viral activity is assayed at two or more different time intervals by performing said step (a) followed by said step (b) at two or more time intervals.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein after said step (a) and prior to said step (b) said cells were frozen and then thawed.

Claims 9-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (previously amended): A method for assaying activity of a virus comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a plurality of cells susceptible to caspase 3 induction with said virus, wherein said virus is either measles virus, mumps virus, or rubella virus; and
- (b) measuring said caspase 3 activity as an indication of virus activity.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The method of claim 18, wherein said plurality of cells is either Vero cells or RK-13 cells.